

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 EB-07 COME-00 L-03

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DRAFTED BY ARA-LA/EP: JKING:GFH

APPROVED BY ARA-LA/EP - JOHN KING

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652; N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EC

SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF US TEAM VISIT

1. AP QUERIED DEPT OCTOBER 22 RE TRAVEL TO LIMA OF FISHLOW TEAM AND WAS TOLD IN GENERAL TERMS OF REASONS FOR VISIT AT THIS TIME.

2. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IF THERE ARE ADDITIONAL QUERIES:

A. QUESTION: WHY IS A US MISSION IN LIMA?

ANSWER: AS YOU KNOW, THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT LAST FRIDAY ANNOUNCED IT WAS TERMINATING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MARCONA COMPANY WHICH HAD PROCEEDED SINCE THE EXPROPRIATION OF ITS PROPERTIES IN PERU LAST JULY.

FOR SOME TIME, THE GOP HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HAVING THE USG DIRECTLY ENGAGED IN THE PROCESS OF SEEKING A SETTLEMENT COVERING COMPENSATION FOR THE COMPANY'S EXPROPRIATED PROPERTIES. THE MARCONA COMPANY HAS EXPRESSED
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SIMILAR INTEREST FROM TIME TO TIME DURING THE

DISCUSSIONS IT HAS HELD WITH THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT.

DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FISHLOW WAS SENT TO LIMA TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR ARRANGING A SETTLEMENT OF THE ISSUE ON A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT LEVEL.

B. QUESTION: IS THERE A POSSIBILITY THAT HICKENLOOPER-TYPE SANCTIONS MAY BE IN THE OFFING IF PERU DOESN'T PAY COMPENSATION? IS MR. FISHLOW IN LIMA TO WARN THE GOP OF USG REPRISALS IF THERE IS NO SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT?

ANSWER: DR. FISHLOW IS, AS INDICATED, IN LIMA FOR PRELIMINARY TALKS LOOKING TOWARD A SETTLEMENT OF THIS DISPUTE. TO LOOK BEYOND THESE TALKS NOW WOULD BE HYPOTHETICAL AND SPECULATIVE. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE253467
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LA/EP: JKING:GFH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750370-0765
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751023/aaaaaumm.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 NOV 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <21 JAN 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS TREATMENT OF US TEAM VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, OTRA, EINV, EC, PE, US, (FISHLOW)
To: LIMA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006